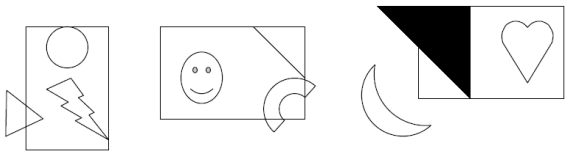
Lovin' Literacy

Sneakin' in the Standards… *Afterschool Style!*

Learn your language well and command it well, and you will have the first component to life. - Edward R Murrow

Wrapped Around Your Finger: The name pretty much explains this entire activity. This is a fun game for kids to introduce themselves and practice speaking and listening. Begin with an unknotted segment of webbing. One person in the group begins wrapping the webbing around their index finger, and while doing so, provides the group with some information about themselves (where they were born, family members, school experiences, childhood pets, dreams, goals, favorite foods, etc.) The goal is for this person to continue talking until the webbing is completely wrapped around their finger. – thanks Jim Cain

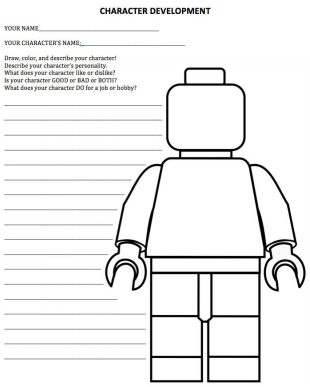
Drawing Shapes: Draw some collages of shapes like the three examples here on index cards. Children sit back to back. One child received a shape card. The other child has a pencil and paper. The child with the shapes has the challenge of describing the shapes to the other child in a way that the child can understand and replicate the shape with his own drawing. The child with the shape card cannot show the other child the card – verbal communication only. Discuss what went well, what communication strategies worked. Discuss what didn't go well; what were the challenges, what made it difficult. Finally discuss what they would do differently if they had a chance to do it again. If time permits, repeat. Variation: You can give both children a piece of paper. One child performs a set of 5-6 folds and tears on the paper while describing his behavior to the other child who attempts to replicate the folds and tears so that both papers match when completed.



Conversation Starter Table Tents: and more at www.ashcraftafterschool.com/gettingalong.html

Afterschool Constitution - In many afterschool programs, the adults develop and enforce the rules. In many more programs, rules are generated through a discussion with the children. Staff then help children rephrase their suggested rules for the official rules document. Many programs do rules with kids, and then develop consequences for misbehavior through group discussion. Take this a step further and sneak in some social studies. Print copies of the Bill of the US Constitution. Announce your idea to create a "Constitution of the Children's Choice Afterschool Program" (insert the name of your program here). The goal is to capture the flavor of the US Constitution in your program document. Have kids paraphrase the preamble, putting the language into terms that they truly understand… so that "establish justice" becomes something like "be fair" and "insure domestic tranquility" becomes "be chill." Have them write an initial draft and revise it for clear communication of ideas, and edit it for all writing conventions. When the final document is complete, transfer it to a poster board and have a program meeting to review what they created and agreed to. "We the children, in order to form a more awesome program…" Finally, all children sign their "John Hancocks" to signify agreement.

Adjective Acrostics: Explain that an acrostic is a series of words in which the letters form a useful word or phrase. First have the children brainstorm and write down a list of their favorite things, what they look like, where they live, what they like to do, or anything about their personality. Then they write their names down vertically on one side of a piece of paper. Using their brainstormed ideas, they find words that match the letters in their names. For the name Chelsea, he might use "Caring," on the first line, then "Humorous" on the second line, and so on. Allow them to use a dictionary or thesaurus for help. After they write their poems, they decorate it with color and pictures. Children take turns sharing their poems with the group. Variation: players write a sentence with each word starting with the letter of the other player's name. For example: MIKE: Martians Imagine Kinder Earthlings.



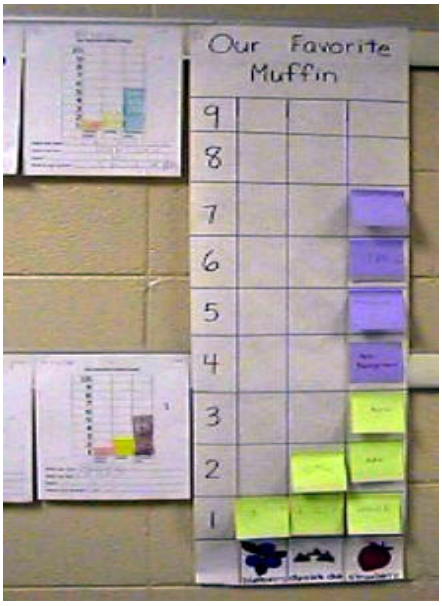
Lego Literacy Pack: Download at www.ashcraftafterschool.com/lovinlearnin.html

PBS Writers Contest: visit www.pbskids.org/writerscontest

Snowball: Kids write a few things about themselves on a piece of scrap paper. They may write their favorite television show and how many people in their family. Once they have completed the paper they crumble the paper into a ball. When all are finished, they create a circle. On the count of 3, children throw snowballs into the center. One child picks up a snowball and reads out loud. The rest try to guess who the correct person it.

Graffiti Walls: The writing is on the wall, and it's SOCIAL. We like to post child-directed activities on the wall that children can read, think about, and CHOOSE to contribute to whenever they want – during snack, free choice time, transitions, etc. We sometimes use large self-stick flip chart paper, or newsprint (very cheap or free from newspaper publishers), butcher paper, or white boards/chalkboards. Center for Afterschool Education, Foundations, Inc. has produced books with a collection of lots of these types of activities. They come with CD's with printable directions only or poster-size activities. http://foundationsinc.org/online-store

Long Love List: We like to use adding tape for this fun literacy activity. We simply put up a long strip of adding tape (to add some novelty and fun) and give the kids a topic. Something like list everything you love (Valentine's Day); everything you are scared of (Halloween); everything that you are thankful for (Thanksgiving) or everything that is WET. They might list water, milk, orange juice, etc. Eventually spit and pee might make the list, so be prepared



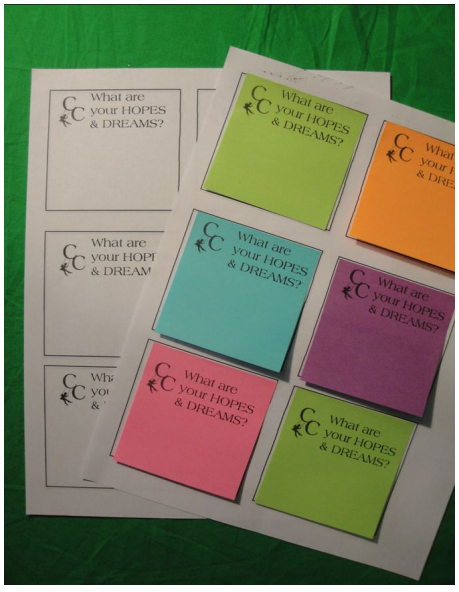
Word Search: Make your own custom word-searches at…
www.discoveryeducation.com/free-puzzlemaker/

Fun Writing Prompts – If I Were In a Snow Globe…, Imagination Constellation Conversation, & search internet for "perfectly timed photos."

McGyvered TV Commercials… see our vids at
www.youtube.com/user/CCafterschool

Rhythm & Poetry: Make your own poems or raps. Get help with rhymes at
www.rhymezone.com

Post It Scramble Game - Put each letter of both your first and last name on a different tiny post –it note. When instructed, get in a group with 3 other people and use all the letters from all of the names in your group to create the best sentence that you can. What literacy skills did you use?



Post It Activities – Use them for brainstorming field trip ideas, service project ideas, or activity ideas. Have kids post their answers on a leader or graph their answers out on a wall to sneak in a little math. Have kids put what they like about their teachers on them and stick them on a banner to display in the teachers' lounge (big brownie points). Make an art collage! Play - Stick It To Me!

Printable Post It Template at…
www.ashcraftafterschool.com/lovinlearnin.html

Shameless Plug… Tons of Free CC Resources at

www.ashcraftafterschool.com
www.facebook.com/ashcraftsafterschool
www.youtube.com/user/CCafterschool
ashcraftafterschool.blogspot.com
twitter.com/#!/Mikeafterschool
www.pinterest.com/mikeafterschool

Spellin' Hopscotch: Create a 35-letter (vowels and R, S, T, and N are written twice), 10-row hopscotch grid on the floor, inside or outside. Write their spelling words or sight words for their grade level on index cards (Note – asking teachers for these lists helps build relationships and partnerships). Children draw a card, read it, replace it, and then hops out the word. Children can hop spell answers to any science or social studies question. Or use numbers and hop out math problems.

Giant Scrabble – GO BIG with sheets of foam core and 6-inch adhesive vinyl letters.

Thumball - You'll need to modify a beach ball(s) for this game. Using a permanent marker, divide the beach ball into more sections by drawing three "longitudinal" lines. If you use a large beach ball, draw one at the equator, and the other two above and below it. If using a mini beach ball, one line on the equator should work. A standard soccer ball could also work. The point is to make sections that are big enough to write phrases, questions, and conversation starters in them. On "GO" children pass the ball around the circle or in a pattern, bouncing around the circle until everyone gets a turn. The child who catches the beach ball must provide a response to the phrase that is closest to his right thumb.

For lots of sample phrases to put on your Thumball visit…
www.ashcraftafterschool.com/teambuilding.html

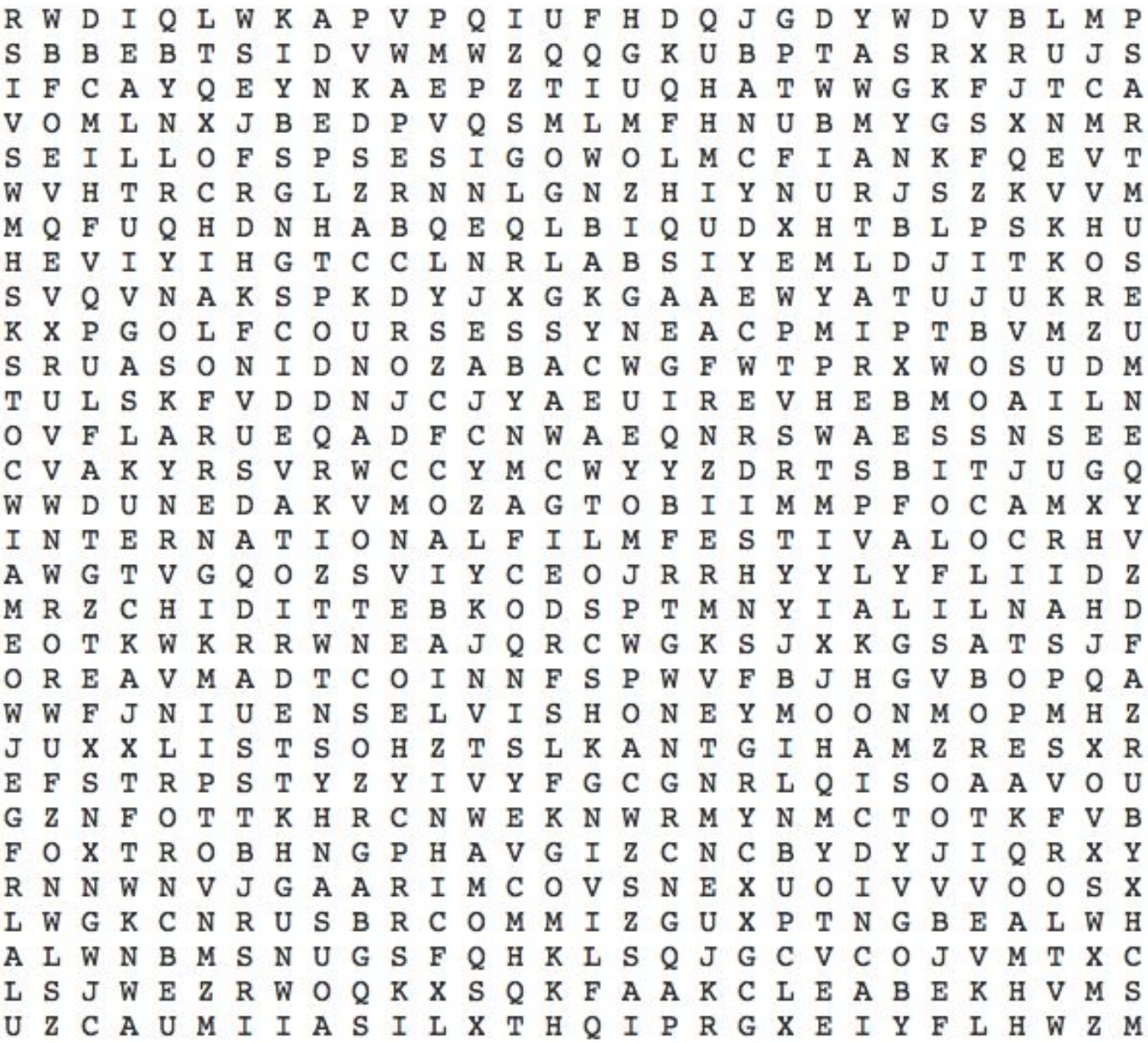
Fly Swatter Game – Display vocabulary words on overhead screen or create a "quilt" with sandwich bags and duct tape. Select two players give them fly swatters and ask them to come to the screen. Show the seated audience cards with one of words. They shout out a kicked up word or synonym – clues without saying actual word. The players with the fly swatters must hit the correct word first in order to score a point.

Parts of a Friendly Letter - To remember the parts of a friendly letter by associating each letter part with a body part (the Mnemonic Method of Loci): Point to your head (the heading); point to your mouth extend outward with a swirly motion (the greeting); point and display, in Vannah White fashion, to your body (the body); point to your butt (the ending/closing) you get cheap laughs here; and stick out your food and sign your name with your toes (the signature).

Language Twister - Modify the Milton Bradley game TwisterTM – Write four "parts of speech" such as noun, verb, adjective, and preposition on each quadrant of the spinner. Write different words on sticky notes – some adjectives, some nouns, some prepositions, and some verbs. One to four players stand on the sides of the mat. Another player spins the spinner and calls out the part of the body with the part of speech (i.e. left hand on adjective). Players find the correct part of speech and place the correct body part on it. No one can use the same word. This continues until someone fails. All players get off mat and write a new word on sticky notes, corresponding to and replacing the same part of speech on the mat. New players come to the mat and the game continues until all children have had a chance.

Tongue Twisters – 1. Pick a letter (phoneme). … "Ch" 2. Think of a noun that starts with the letter. "Chelsea" 3. Think of a verb that starts with the letter. "Chelsea Chirps" 4. Think of a which,/what kind of/how many word that starts with that letter. "Cheerful Chelsea Chirps" 5. Think of a how/when/where word that starts with the letter. "Cheeful Chelsea Chirps Childishly" 6. Say it five times FAST!

Palm Springs California Word Search



Agua Caliente
Knotts Soak City
International Film Festival
PS Air Musium
Living Desert Zoo
Walkof Stars
Tahquitz Peak
Golf Courses
Elvis Honeymoon
Indian Canyons Trail
PS Follies
Casinos
Palm Canyon Drive
Cabazon Dinosaurs
Village Fest
Wind Energy Windmills
PS Art Museum
Mayor Sonny Bono
San Jacinto Peak
PS Aerial Tramway
Frank Sinatra